



Pharmacy Standing Order

Procedures for Naloxone Distribution

October 2015

Background

Opioid overdose is a major public health crisis. In 2014, 303 people died in Baltimore City of drug and alcohol overdoses, a 19% increase from 2013. Of those who died of overdose in 2014, 192 people died as a result of heroin intoxication. This is more than the number of people who died of homicide in Baltimore City. Across the country local, state, and federal agencies are mobilizing to address this rising health epidemic.

On October 1, 2015 Maryland Law SB 516: Public Health – Overdose Response Program, goes into effect. It supports a physician employed by a local health department to have a jurisdiction wide standing order for naloxone agreement with pharmacists. The law specifically addresses standing order prescriptions for naloxone to anyone presenting to a pharmacist a naloxone certificate. Naloxone certificates are given to people who have been through training by a state approved entity. Each card has the person's name and a unique number that is reported to the state. The card states:

“(name) is hereby authorized to obtain a prescription for naloxone in the certificate holder’s name, and to possess and administer naloxone in accordance with Health-General Article, Title 13, Subtitle 31, Annotated Code of Maryland.”

Procedures for Naloxone Standing Order

Pharmacist Actions

Below are the action steps a pharmacist should take to dispense naloxone under the standing order:

1. Keep a copy of the standing order prescription on file and readily retrievable at your pharmacy.
2. Screen individual for a valid state naloxone card.
3. Confirm Dr. Wen's National Provider Identification (NPI) number by calling 410-433-5175.

4. Dispense the naloxone kit and explain contents to the individual. Multiple formulations will be approved for dispensing, with each clearly written out:

Intranasal:

Naloxone (2 mg/2mL) single dose Luer-Lock prefilled syringe. Qty = 2 syringes
(NDC 76329-3369-1)

Dispense with intranasal mucosal atomizer device (MAD 300)

Directions: spray one-half of syringe (1ml) into each nostril upon signs of opioid overdose. May repeat x1, if no response after 3 minutes.

Intramuscular:

Naloxone 0.4mg/ml single dose vial and 3cc, 23g, 1 inch syringes. Qty = 2 vials
(NDC 0409-1215-01)

Directions: Inject 1mL in shoulder or thigh. May repeat x1, if no response after 3 minutes.

Auto-injector:

Evzio auto-injectors (Naloxone 0.4 mg) #1 Two pack kit (NDC 6084203001)

Directions: Use as instructed by device. May repeat x1, if no response after 3 minutes.

5. Fill the naloxone prescription as any other prescription utilizing the person's health insurance coverage.
 - a. In Maryland, [naloxone is covered by Medicaid fee-for-service with a \\$1 copay.](#)
 - b. There is an issue that non DME pharmacies are not able to bill for intranasal muscosal atomizers devices. (LMA MAD 300z). It is ok to dispense without an atomizer.
6. Provide additional material and information, including instructions for naloxone use and how to access substance use disorder or behavioral health treatment.

Standing Order Information

This is a unique opportunity for pharmacies and BCHD to work together to address a public health crisis. Pharmacies can contact Adrienne Breidenstine, Baltimore City's Director of Opioid Overdose Prevention and Treatment, Adrienne.breidenstine@bhsbaltimore.org, to request standing order for naloxone prescriptions.